TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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POSSUM IN PIPE ORGAN SHOCKS CONGREGATION.

Raleigh, N. C.—Weird moans and strange discords shocked the congregation of the Clayton Baptist Church last Sunday when the organist touched his keys for the opening hymn. A hurry call brought a corps of first-aid piano tuners to the scene. The organ continued to give its own version of sacred music and an expert from the factory was summoned to doctor it. He extracted a nine-pound possum from one of the big pipes.

NEARLY FROZEN WHEN RESCUED

Use of Slaw Required For Two of Navy Air Crew

ONE FOUND IN UNDERWEAR

Another Without Shoes—Letter From Manager Of Trading Post Reveals Plight Of Balloonists.

New York.—Description of the desperate plight of the three American naval balloonists after they had landed in the Hudson Bay country December 14 and started working their painful way back to habitation at Moose Factory was received here in a letter from S. R. Thorpe, manager of the Revillon Freres Trading Post at Moose, Ontario.

The letter was directed to the chief inspector of the company, for the James Bay district at Montreal and forwarded to John M. Revillon here.

The balloonists were in a pitiable condition when found and two of them had to be taken to the Hudson Bay post at Moose Factory on a sled, the letter said. Their clothing was torn to pieces and one of the men was found in his underwear, having ripped up his trousers to bind up his feet.

Under date of December 19 the letter said:

"Thomas Mark picked up three strange fellows down at about Middleboro some place, who turned out to be three American naval service men, who went up in a balloon on Monday P. M., the 13th, over New York making observations for the United States Government.

"They got carried away in a gale, finally landing about 3 P. M. on Tuesday, the 14th, some 15 or 20 miles back in the bush of Nicholson's Creek-way.

"They had not seen any sign of anything at all in that distance, but eventually heard some dogs bark as they passed over here, and commenced to descend as fast as possible, landed back here in the bush.

"Using the balloon's compass, they steered a course back due southeast, and came out at the mouth of Nicholsons Creek. Seeing Tom Mark on the ice about Middleboro, the youngest of them ran across to him, and he took him to his tent, and then went up to the Hudson Bay Company, and they sent a team down to get the other two.

"One of them was all in, not having had anything to eat but two carrier pigeons which they happened to have with them in the balloon. Their clothing was all torn to pieces, one of them arriving in his underwear, having torn his pants up to wrap on their feet. They say one was in his bare feet.

"Mr. Gaudet and three men left early yesterday morning with two dog teams to go in to find the balloon, though I hear they are not going to bother with it, so I presume the Hudson Bay Company is going to try and get it out, as there will be a lot of silk tent in it. It is supposed to be worth about $5,000, though they had to throw everything away possible to lighten up so as to stay in the air till they saw some sign of civilization.

"One of them is a Mr. Hinton, who made the trans-Atlantic flight in one of those NC seaplanes, though he says this is his first and last experience in a balloon."

Mr. Revillon, president of Revillon Freres, said the company's post is near Moose Factory, the trading post of the Hudson Bay Company.

$2,000 AS LIQUOR FINE.

Cleveland Judge Sets New Record For Penalties.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Municipal Judge Francis B. Stevens set a new high record in fines for liquor violators here when he fined Julius Jenda $2,000 and costs for violating the State liquor law. Jenda, Judge Stevens found, had been convicted of liquor law violations on two previous occasions.

MILD WEATHER FOOLS HENS.

Waynesboro, Pa.—Eggs are coming in in great quantities as a result of spring-like conditions, the hens evidently mistaking the mild weather for real spring effect and speeding up for the hatching function. As a result of the abnormal supply eggs dropped six cents in the city wholesale markets.

SAWS WAY OUT OF JAIL.

Fugitive Critically Ill With Pneumonia And Diphtheria.

Clarksburg, W. Va.—A posse of deputy sheriffs spent the day without result in scouring the city and countryside for Arnold Smith, a young married man of West Union, who sawed his way out of the hospital of the county jail here, climbed down stone walls from the third floor and escaped while quite ill of pneumonia and diphtheria.

12,183 SALARIES ARE LOPPED OFF

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bill

CARRIES SUM OF $112,728,438

$6,500,000 For Prohibition—Sum Applies To Enforcement Of Anti-narcotic As Well As Dry Legislation.

Washington.—The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, the big salary measure reported out by the House Appropriations Committee, carried a total of $112,728,438, or $28,724,196 less than departments asked for, and $5,728,771 below the amount appropriated for the current year.

As an indication of the war-time increase the bill's total in 1916 was $36,910,799, but as one means of cutting expenses the committee lopped off salaries for 12,183 employees in the District of Columbia. An appropriation of $10,000,000 was recommended for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The specific amount carried by the bill for the enforcement of the prohibition and anti-narcotic law was $6,500,000, the sum being a joint one for the two purposes.

The largest cuts in appropriations for departments, as compared with those of last year, were: Treasury Department, $6,906,611; Department of Commerce, $3,807,250; War Department, $2,927,870, and Navy Department, $382,770.

The subcommittee estimated that an additional $15,000,000 would be saved if Congress followed the recommendation of the subcommittee that the $240 annual bonus granted federal employes not apply in the case of employees whose pay is adjustable by wage boards or similar authority in accord with commercial rates paid locally for the same class of service.

The subcommittee explained that the excess of $75,794,949 in the present bill over that for the fiscal year 1916 resulted largely from Federal activities growing out of the war.

No decrease in the number of employees in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance is required, but the bureau's appropriation was reduced from $10,324,400 to $7,145,400. It asked for $12,543,050.

SHIELD HER BY BARRAGE FIRE.

Smugglers On The Mexican Side Protest An Aged Woman.

El Paso, Tex.—Shielded by barrage fire from smugglers on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, an aged Mexican woman carried a sack full of tequila across the river and deposited the liquor on the American side.

Just as she laid down her burden immigration officers from El Paso began to return the fire of the smugglers, according to a report made by Chief Immigration Officer C. A. Perkins.

The woman, Gertrude Montalva, of Juarez, was seriously wounded by crossfire.

Mr. Perkins declared that it was the first time ever reported where smugglers undertook to attempt to shield a person who was wading the river carrying liquor.

Charges of crossing the line without a passport and of transporting liquor have been filed against the woman.

ARMANDA READY FOR CRUISE.

Many Maneuvers To Be Performed Before Five-Month Trip.

Norfolk, Va.—The United States Atlantic armada is massing off the Virginia Capes for a five months' cruise to South America.

Firing at long and short range, battle formations, speed tests and night maneuvers are planned before the cruise.

Airplane night-firing will be experimented in, officers announced. The battleship Oklahoma is equipped with two powerful air fighters which can rise almost instantly from its big gun turrets.

The fleet will carry shiploads of sporting goods to amuse the personnel on the long voyage and it is reported the money carried to purchase supplies and pay the men will aggregate $10,000,000.

NOTED CLERGYMAN DEAD.

Rev. Dr. W. Cunningham Rodgers Of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia.—The Rev. Dr. William Cunningham Rodgers, rector of Old St. David's Episcopal Church at Radnor, near here, died at his home. He was 64 years old, a native of England and a graduate there of Christ College, Cambridge.

BERNSTORFF FOR REICHSTAG.

Former Ambassador Nominated In Schleswig-Holstein.

Berlin.—Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador in Washington, has been nominated for the Reichstag by the Democratic Party in Schleswig-Holstein.

AVIATORS FROST-BITTEN.

Balloonists Landed Several Miles Out On Frozen Bay.

Winnipeg, Man.—Headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company here reported that the three American naval balloonists—Lieutenants Walter Hinton, Stephen Farrell and A. L. Kloor, Jr.—were severely frost-bitten when they landed at Moose Factory, and had been out of provisions for several days. They sustained themselves on concentrated foods.

BRINGS "DEAD" TO LIFE BY POUNCING ON BODY.

Valdosta, Ga.—Stricken with acute indigestion, the Rev. R. P. Fain was given up for dead while attending a ministers' meeting at Hahira, Ga., and was laid out in the church while his son went to inform the family. Meantime the Rev. John Stanford arrived at the church, and pouncing on the "body" with his knees, violently worked the stricken minister's arms. The Rev. Mr. Fain recovered and walked home.

EUROPE IS MOVING TOWARD THE U. S.

Wallis Declares Flood of Immigrants Is Imminent

BETTER INSPECTION NEEDED

Four Epidemics In Europe—Contrast Between Strictness In Passing Soldiers And Laxity Toward Aliens.

Washington.—Testimony by Commissioner Wallis of the Ellis Island immigration station, that Europe was "literally moving to the United States" and that a "flood" of aliens was imminent, still left members of the Senate Immigration Committee doubtful as to action upon the Johnson bill prohibiting immigration for one year. Several members frankly expressed doubt whether any measures to stop or restrict immigration would be enacted at this session of Congress.

The committee obviously was impressed with Commissioner Wallis' statements as to the need for inspection of aliens before leaving Europe, and for more rigid examinations after their arrival at American ports. The Commissioner recommended particularly that facilities be established overseas for such inspections and declared that 90 per cent. of the immigrants arriving under the existing system would be denied permission to sail if they were examined at the ports or embarkation by American officials.

A proper system of examination in Europe and upon arrival, Mr. Wallis said, would prevent an imminent flood of those diseased in body and mind.

"Fortunately," he added, "the steamships of the world can bring only 1,800,000 a year to the United States. It is in the limited transportation facilities and increased examination that we will get the best protection."

The commissioner declared reports of the Public Health Service indicated that Eastern Europe today "is in the grip of four epidemics—typhus, typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis." The war has undermined the health of those countries and their emigrants are "dangerous to the public health of the United States," he added.

Mr. Wallis reminded the committee "that not a mother's son who went to war in Europe was allowed to return to his home until he had taken a bath in strongest disinfectants and his clothes had been cleansed thoroughly.

"Yet these people come here uncleansed and diseased," he added. "One of the greatest troubles we have at Ellis Island is getting rid of their vermin. It should be done before they arrive. We are there to protect the gateway of the nation," Mr. Wallis said, in telling of the work of the Ellis Island station. "I had rather turn back a thousand good people than let one in who would blow up Wall street. We must be careful, and that causes congestion on the island."

SEEK CENTRAL BANK.

Republican Leaders Leaning Toward Old Aldrich Plan.

Marion, Ohio.—A stormy partisan fight early in the Harding Administration over the proposed establishment of a centralized bank of the United States to replace the present Federal Reserve banks was indicated here, when it became known that Republican leaders are laying plans to raise this issue soon.

Leaders have already sought the support of the President-elect, and plan to make the creation of a central bank one of the achievements of the next Administration if Harding will consent to making the fight.

U. S. AGAINST OCCUPATION.

Unwilling To Have French Enter The Ruhr Valley, In Germany.

Washington.—The United States is at present opposed to occupation of the Ruhr Valley by the French because of alleged failure of Germany to fulfill the disarmament provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, it was learned officially.

TURKS CALLED TO COLORS.

Action Of Assembly Applies To Mussulmans Between 20 And 30.

Constantinople.—The National Assembly of the Turkish Nationalist Government at Angora has called all Mussulmans between the ages of 20 and 30 years to the colors, it is announced in an Angora message.

2,325,000 OUT OF WORK.

Plumb Plan Organ's Investigator Makes Estimate.

Washington.—A total of 2,325,000 workers are out of employment in the country, according to a survey of the industrial situation made by Clint C Houston for the current issue of Labor, official organ of the Plumb Plan League. Mr. Houston asserts that his inquiry disclosed the greatest industrial slump since the money panic of 1907.

HARDING FACING MANY PROBLEMS

An Array of Diplomatic Entanglements

NO INKLING FROM WILSON

Peace Treaty Big Issue—Summary Shows That Relations With Leading Countries Involve Wide Range Of Difficulties.

Washington.—In less than two months Woodrow Wilson walks out of the White House and Warren G. Harding walks in. Unless the expiring Democratic Administration succeeds in clearing up between now and the inaugural ceremonies on March 4 some of the mass of diplomatic negotiations now pending there will be left to Mr. Harding a heritage of diplomatic entanglements the like of which has seldom, if ever, been faced by a new President.

Not only will President Harding, his new Secretary of State, and their Senatorial colleagues at the Capitol have to undertake the formation of an entire new peace structure from the ashes of the World War, but they will also have to iron out other diplomatic difficulties with nearly all the great Powers of the world and many of the smaller ones.

A summary of America's relations with the rest of the world shows that with

Germany—We are still in a technical state of war.

Austria—We are still in a technical state of war.

Russia—We have no diplomatic or trade relations.

Mexico—We have not recognized the Government of General Obregon.

Japan—We are in a serious tangle over Japanese immigration in California.

England—We are involved in a dispute over the disposition of the former German cables, and we have protested against the British-French partition of the Mesopotamia oil supplies.

France and Italy—We are in a serious controversy over the former German cables.

Cuba—President Wilson has sent a special envoy to confer with President Menocal over the chaotic conditions in the island. There is a possibility of intervention.

Colombia—Our relations continue to be somewhat strained because of the non-adjustment of the Colombian treaty.

Most of the Central American Republics—we are involved in negotiations over a variety of things.

Whether President Wilson will succeed in settling any of these difficulties in the scant time that is left of his Administration and what disposition he will make of the Treaty of Versailles are problematical.

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS I. C. C.

Says It Has Exclusive Right To Classify Freight.

Washington.—Lower court decrees restraining the director general of railroads and individual carriers from removing artificial silk from their schedules of classified freight were reversed by the Supreme Court. The Vicose Company of America, the plaintiff, contended that classification of its goods was compulsory under the law. The Interstate Commerce Commission had exclusive jurisdiction in the premises, the Supreme Court held.

HEIR TO MILLION WINS.

Supreme Court Refuses To Revoke Claim Of Alleged Foster Child.

Washington.—The claim of Charles Francis Dorrance, of St. Louis, Mo., to a fourth interest in the $4,000,000 estate of Charles Dorrance, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., will stand as a result of the refusal of the Supreme Court to review a decision of lower courts holding him to be the legal grandson of the testator. Other heirs appealed, alleging that the respondent, when a baby, was adopted from an orphan asylum in St. Louis and was therefore barred on the will.

SWIFT DIVIDEND $12,000,000.

Previous Surplus Earnings The Reason, Report Says.

Chicago.—Surplus earnings of previous years made possible 8 per cent. dividends, amounting to $12,000,000, although sales fell off in 1920, according to the annual statement of Swift & Co., announced at the annual meeting of shareholders here. During the year $5,170,382.45 was added to the company surplus.

QUEEN MOTHER OPERATED ON.

Holland Dowager's Condition Is Reported To Be Satisfactory.

The Hague.—Queen Mother Emma, mother of Queen Wilhelmina, underwent an operation for hernia. A bulletin, issued at the palace, said.

"Queen Mother Emma was operated on for hernia. There were no complications and her Majesty bore the operation very well. The patient's general condition is satisfactory.

GIRLS' SEMINARY BURNED.

150 Students Had Not Returned From Vacation.

Charleston, W. Va.—The Lewisburg Seminary for Girls at Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, was destroyed by fire with a loss of approximately $100,000. Only four girls were in the building and they escaped without difficulty. The other 150 students had not yet returned to their studies after the Christmas holidays.

DIES WITH DOG RATHER THAN BE SEPARATED.

Ashland, Wis. — When John Smith, a 69-year-old recluse, sought admittance to the Ashland county poor farm, he was told he could enter but could not bring his dog, which had been his only companion for years.

Later Smith's body was found beside that of his dog in a lonely shack in the woods.

His hand still grasped the gun that had ended their lives.

WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL BURNS

Valuable State Records and Famous Collection Burned

STORED EXPLOSIVES GO UP

Victims Crushed By Falling Wall—Convict Alleged To Have Made Prediction In Regard To Building.

Charleston, W. Va.—The West Virginia State Capitol and invaluable records of the various State departments were destroyed by a fire of mysterious origin.

Two persons were killed and a number of firemen injured in a fall of a part of the wall. The dead are Ed Spencer, an electrician, and Howard Pauley, who was assisting the firemen. Charles Walker, engineer, is missing, and is believed to be dead.

Oscar Thaxton, fireman, and Bill Lacy, patrolman, were seriously injured. Firemen declare the body of another man is buried beneath the debris.

Almost all State records were lost. Two cabinets from the Secretary of State's office, the Governor's correspondence and records from the State Department of Schools were saved.

The famous collection in the museum of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture went up in flames. It was declared to be the best of any agricultural department in the country.

William Biggs, prisoner at the West Virginia Penitentiary, at Moundsville, three weeks ago predicted that the West Virginia State Capitol would be destroyed either by fire or a bomb explosion, according to a prominent Charleston attorney, who refused to allow use of his name.

The men who were killed and injured were descending a ladder which reached to the State Tax Commissioner's office on the third floor. They were swept from the ladder when the wall fell and buried them beneath it.

The fire was one of the most spectacular that ever occurred in this city and furnished many thrills for the thousands of spectators.

The sharp crash of exploding ammunition rang clearly above the roar of the flames, and the billowing clouds of dense black smoke eddied and whirled as the blasts from the discharges rent through them.

While the flames were eating down into the building the employes of the offices on the lower floor, both men and women, salvaged as much of the papers and equipment as they could and with fairly good success.

The Capitol building, erected in 1881 at a cost of more than $400,000, is believed to have been the only brick Capitol in the United States. State officials said that the building was valued at approximately $1,250,000.

The Legislature is scheduled to meet in regular biennial session within the next two weeks.

In a statement, Governor Cornwell said the fire was little short of a calamity. His statement follows:

"Of course this fire is short of a calamity to the State because of the records that have been destroyed in the various departments which will occasion inconvenience to many persons. It cannot be ascertained just yet how much of the records were saved or what will be the state of those in the various vaults after the fire is over.

"The monetary loss will not be great, we have insurance on all the State buildings in a blanket policy. The total insurance carried is approximately $6,000,000."

LEEDS MAY WED PRINCESS.

Constantine's Niece Said To Be Intended Of Tinplate King's Son.

Athens.—William Leeds, son of Princess Anastasia, may marry Princess Olga, daughter of Prince Nicholas and niece of King Constantine, it is rumored in court circles. Prince Nicholas is a brother of Prince Christopher, the husband of Princess Anastasia.

$50,000 FOR INAUGURAL.

Senator Knox Introduces Bill Setting Maximum For Fund.

Washington.—Fifty thousand dollars was the figure set by the Senate Rules Committee as necessary for Congressional expenses in connection with the inauguration of President-elect Harding. Chairman Knox introduced a resolution proposing that as a maximum fund.

GERMANY TO GIVE IN.

Paris.—The Intransigeant claims to have learned from an authoritative source that there is a certainty that Germany will yield on the disarmament question as a result of the energetic attitude of the Allies. Therefore, it says, the meeting of the British, Italian and French premiers will be postponed in order to give them time to examine the reply Germany is expected to make to the Allied representation.

VIRGINIA NEWS IN SHORT ORDER

Latest Doings in Various Parts of the State

TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Lynchburg.—John N. Morris, traffic officer in the police department, has been promoted to the position of first lieutenant in the department.

Harrisonburg.—Hose Company No. 4, Harrisonburg's Fire Company which has won successive honors at State firemen's conventions, held election of officers Monday, which resulted in old officers being installed. Reports to be submitted to the next meeting of the City Council were approved, and general satisfaction with the activities of the past year expressed.

Petersburg.—An unsuccessful attempt by burglars to enter the big vault in the office of the Southern Dry Goods Company, on North Union street was discovered when employes reported for work. The hinges on the vault doors had been sawed in two, but the cracksmen were foiled in their attempts to enter the vault by a steel bar across the inside of the doors.

Lynchburg.—Hallie G. Witt, who served as a sergeant in the casualty department of the Fifty-fourth Depot Brigade during the war, following an enlistment with Company G, First Virginia Infantry, has been elected first lieutenant of Company E, First Virginia National Guard here. He succeeds J. O. Jordan, recently transferred to a Roanoke Machine Gun Company, of which he has been made captain.

Pulaski.—Fire of undetermined origin gutted the millinery and music departments of the store of Clyde Smith & Son. Nothing was saved from either department. A partition separated them from the main floor. The firm carried about a $20,000 stock, with only insurance of $1,000, with $500 on the building. Effective work of the volunteer fire department prevented a section of the town being burned.

Newport News.—A resolution indorsing the action of the local school board in putting a ban on dancing by high school pupils was adopted by the Ministerial Association. The resolution declared that "the dance craze has proven one of the most distressing results of the World War," and that "thoughtful people on both sides of the Atlantic are moving so unitedly to oppose it that even the dance masters are advocating reform and advertising a change of policy."

Petersburg.—George Lundy, son of Chesterfield County Magistrate G. E. Lundy, whose trial in the Hustings Court of this city in November on the charge of shooting and killing Clyde James at the Lundy home on the night of November 11, resulted in a hung jury, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and was sentenced by Judge Mullen to one year in the State Penitentiary. Lundy will be taken to Richmond within the next few days to begin serving his sentence.

Danville.—That a point in Virginia is being considered as the terminal in a cross-Atlantic zeppelin service was asserted by Colonel A. B. Carrington of this city who recently returned from Europe. He said he had been assured that capitalists of France, America and England were forming a company to operate zeppelins and heavier-than-air machines as soon as commercial flying has reached a point where it can be undertaken on a large scale. He said a point slightly north of Danville, Va., was under consideration, and that he had pledged the interest of his community in any such scheme, even proffering 190 acres for the landing place.

Danville.—The campaign for members will be continued by the Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association throughout the month of January. This announcement was made here by W. R. Ogg, secretary treasurer of the organization, who is directing the campaign. The campaign was scheduled to be completed by January 1, but owing to a number of circumstances this was found to be inadvisable. Many counties were unable to get their county organizations perfected and organizers put in the field until the middle of December. The combining of the three Virginia tobacco growers' organizations was also a large factor in changing the plans for the membership campaign. The condition of the roads has also hindered organization work in many communities.

Fredericksburg.—At a meeting of citizens of Spottsylvania county the organization of a Spottsylvania County Good Roads Association was effected by the election of Captain M. B. Rowe as chairman, and T. E. Thomas as secretary and treasurer. Sub-chairmen will be named for the different districts in the county and an intensive drive will be put on for membership in the Virginia Good Roads Association to develop sentiment for better highways and make possible good roads educational work in every section of the State.

Petersburg.—A large frame building at Camp Lee, formerly the colored hostess house, now used by Captains J. E. Allison and W. A. Rawls, of the Forty-third Infantry, and their families as quarters, was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of about $13,000. Origin of the fire is not known, but the building was a complete loss. None of the household effects were saved, the families barely escaping without injury with no clothes other than those they wore.

STATE CAPITAL

Civic Bodies To Help Good Roads.

Richmond.—

Beginning January 18 and continuing three days, the Richmond committee of the Virginia Good Roads Association will conduct an intensive campaign to raise an educational campaign fund of $15,000 and an active membership of 6,500. This plan was determined at a largely attended meeting of representatives of various Richmond organizations at Murphy's Hotel. The fund is to be used in educational work throughout Virginia in the interests of good roads, and the membership is to use its influence in securing favorable action by the next Legislature on a bond issue for road improvements.

The meeting was presided over by G. Edmond Massie, Jr., chairman of the Richmond committee. R. E. Cunningham is trasurer of this committee, and R. Taylor Coleman is secretary.

Executive Secretary V. D. L. Robinson, of the Virginia Good Roads Association, addressed the meeting and pointed out the splendid work being done by his association in educating the people on the subject of good roads, and explained that still greater work is contemplated through the educational campaign now being conducted by means of the moving picture. The campaign will be carried into the rural districts, where there is much dissatisfaction with the prevailing methods in good roads work with the ultimate end in view of securing co-operation from every section for the proposed bond issue, with its attendant possibilities for more thorough and more rapid work on the highways and cross-roads.

Crops Valued At $239,792,000.

Crops raised in Virginia during the year just ended were worth at the regular market prices December 1, $239,792,000, according to figures compiled by Henry M. Taylor, field agent here for the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates. While nearly every other Southern State lost its rank among the States in value of its products, Virginia advanced from twenty-fourth to twenty-third place.

While the estimate of the value of the crops show that there is a decrease of 31 per cent. over last year, when the State's production was valued at $347,962,000, the value of 1920 crops is still above the average for the period between 1913 and 1918, the average yearly value being $219,804,000. The great diversity of Virginia's agriculture accounts for the fact that this State gained in reality during the year, while others, which depended alone on one product for income, lost rank.

Corn is Virginia's leading crop in total value, although the average value per acre goes to tobacco. The large acreage, rather than the high value per acre is given the credit for making corn the most valuable crop of the Commonwealth. The total value of this crop was $50,100,000, while tobacco values at market prices show that the entire crop is worth but $42,574,000. Value of the hay crop is estimated to be $29,022,000, wheat $20,565,000 and potatoes, $12,028,000.

Commission Sets Precedent.

In the first case of a salaried executive applying for compensation under the provisions of the workmen's compensation act, John G. Corley, President of The Corley Company, Inc., was allowed sixty days' medical service and one month's loss of time by the Industrial Commission of Virginia. Evidence submitted to the commission showed that Mr. Corley had suffered blood-poisoning through an abrasion of the finger, made while in the service of the company.

Widespread interest was shown in the case at the time of hearing, November 8. The insurance company carrying The Corley Company policy strongly contested the case. According to evidence, The Corley Company was paying compensation insurance, based on a pay-roll rate, in which was included Mr. Corley's salary of $10,000, and thus it was the opinion of the commissioners that he was entitled to an award for his injury and loss of time. In this sense, Mr. Corley, as is an employee, comes under the terms of the Virginia law.

A precedent in the work of the commission was established by Mr. Corley, for, while the commission tries many cases of working people, this was the only case so far in which a high-salaried official applied for compensation.

$45,000 To Europeans.

Approximately $40,000 has been given by Virginia for the relief of the 3,500,000 starving children in Central Europe, principally in Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, it was announced by DeSoto Fitzgerald, State treasurer. Many people are sending money directly to the New York headquarters and such money is being credited to the Virginia collection, but it is desired by the national association that contributors should make donations through their State treasurer.

Charlottesville.—

The younger generations of alumni of the University of Virginia will have to go strong to defeat the men of the ancient fifties at the centennial next June, for Professor Francis H. Smith, of the class of 1851, is on the lawn already awaiting for the celebration to take place, and Dr. John C. Edwards, of O'Fallon, Mo., writes that he will be on deck when the captain blows the whistle. Dr. Edwards is three years older than Dr. Smith, having just celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday.

Uncle Walt's Story

HARD ON THE POETS

"I'M SCHEDULED to recite 'Annabel Lee' at an entertainment tonight," confessed the retired merchant. "I've been repeating the poem to myself almost constantly for several days, and know every comma in it, but I'm afraid that when I stand up to recite, I'll have forgotten every word of it."

"I hope so," said the hotelkeeper. "Such a poem as 'Annabel Lee' deserves better treatment than you are qualified to give it. You have a voice like a guinea hen, and you telescope your words, and you don't know any more about poetry than a porcupine knows about Paradise. If you'd stand up and recite a few pages from a mail-order catalogue I have no doubt you'd put the proper feeling into it, and move your audience to tears, but it's a crime for a man like you to mangle a beautiful poem, full of sentiment and melody.

"There ought to be a law against that sort of thing. Some of the best poems in the country have been ruined by common or garden elocutionists. Nowadays people smile when you mention 'Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight.' It has been recited so much by people with cracked voices that it has become a joke. Yet if you examine the poem calmly and impartially you will find that it has a great deal of merit.

"In the schools the pupils are permitted to recite some of our best poems, and the poems aren't fit for anything after it. The school authorities should prohibit this sort of thing, and prepare a volume of cheap asbestos poetry that is fool proof, that can't be injured, no matter what you do to it. There is plenty of punk poetry in the world, and a collection of this stuff would serve the schoolboy elocutionists just as well as the high class poetry that is so easily spoiled.

"When I went to school, about a hundred years ago, there was a tall, freckled, gangling boy, who talked through his nose, with a sort of whine that sounded like filing a saw. There was to be a school entertainment, and this boy was down for a recitation. The teacher never asked him what he was going to recite, but gave him the right of way. Teachers continue to make the same mistake, even as we go to press. They should choose the poems which are to be butchered to make a Roman holiday and select something that won't rip, ravel or run down at the heel.

"This boy stood up before the school and droned through Gray's 'Elegy.' Now, that's one of the best rhymes ever composed. It was written by a journeyman poet who put in seven years at it, in the time when they had ten-hour days. He wanted to leave behind him a poem that would stand the severest tests of the government inspectors, and he did. In my opinion there is nothing better in any language. It is rather melancholy, but it has a sort of doggone soothing quality that is a balm to the bruised spirit of a landlord when he finds that the receipts of his hotel don't equal the expenses.

"Time and again, when discouraged and played out, I have started to read that poem, and as soon as I get fairly into it, I seem to see that blamed gangling schoolboy, in his high-water garments, and hear him droning through those verses, making a noise like a sawmill on a wet day. It's more than forty years since he made a violent assault upon the Elegy, but it seems like yesterday. It's the same way with Hamlet's 'Soliloquy.' Every time I hear or see that gem I think of a fat youth who recited it in our school, and then I burst into tears.

"There's no sense in such a business, and congress ought to do something, doggone it."

Freak of Acoustics.

In the whispering gallery of St. Paul's cathedral in London the faintest sound is faithfully conveyed from one side of the dome to the other, but can not be heard at any intermediate point.

Accounting for the Blue.

Mrs. Bacon—They do say that a single grain of indigo will color a ton of water.

Mr. Bacon—Do you suppose that is why the milk is so blue this morning, dear?

Cigarette Smoking.

Cigarette smoking is on the increase all over the world, according to a census of the industry. In 1919 30,000,000 "coffin nails" were smoked in the United States and more than 16,000,000,000 were exported.

Just Fancy.

"Whatcher figuring out, Jimmie?"

"I'm thinking what a fortune it would be for someone if I could figure out how to harness the energy that is wasted in shimmy dances."—Florida Times-Union.

New Process Hardens Wood.

A new process of artificially aging and hardening wood, which is a new industry in Denmark, is said to give a quality of durability to timber heretofore regarded as worthless. Ash becomes like real teak and birch like mahogany.

Taking Your Measure.

The things that people say about you when you are not with them, make up what the community thinks of you. Ever stop to consider how you are sized up?